



LITTLE SENECA
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Does your dog need the Leptospirosis (Lepto) Vaccine?

What is Lepto? Leptospirosis is a zoonotic, potentially fatal, bacterial disease that is spread through direct and indirect contact with infected animal's urine. This disease most commonly causes the kidneys to fail, but can also cause liver failure, lung disease, and bleeding disorders.

What are the symptoms of Lepto? Common symptoms include fever, lethargy, weakness, increased thirst, increased urinations, and lack of appetite.

How can my dog get Lepto? Dogs can be infected with Leptospirosis through any contact with the bacteria. Leptospirosis is a hardy bacterium and can survive for months outside a host, in stagnant water, mud or damp soil. The disease is seen frequently in milder climates with rainy seasons (like the Mid-Atlantic)

Is my dog at risk? Studies have shown a dramatic increase of Lepto positive dogs in the past 2 decades. If your dog spends time in an environment where Lepto vectors have access (like racoons, opossums, livestock, and rats – common in urban areas), your dog is at risk.

Should I vaccinate my dog? We recommend that any dog that is exposed to an environment where the Leptospirosis bacteria can thrive be vaccinated. Lepto can be fatal and transmitted from dogs to humans, making it a very threatening disease. After the first dose of the Lepto vaccine, you dog will get a second dose 2 to 4 weeks later. After that, he/she will get the vaccine annually.

Little Seneca Animal Hospital – 20630 Seneca Meadows Parkway, Suite E2, Germantown, MD 20876 – 301-540-8670



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